



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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September Programs Offered at Saguaro National Park

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this summer that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led evening walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change – call the visitor centers for schedule updates or for reservations.

Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) include:

September 4 10:45 a.m. "Tarantula" Patio Talk

They look big, hairy, and scary, but they're really just big (8 legged) pussycats! Come meet a live tarantula and learn more about this fascinating desert creature. ***This program will also be offered September 11, 18 and 25.*** *These programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

September 4 2:15 p.m. "The CCC and its impact on Saguaro National Park" Illustrated Talk

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Depression-era work program that had a great influence on National, State, and County parks throughout the Nation. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. A brief history of the CCC in this area will be illustrated with old photo images and movie clips. ***This program will also be offered September 11 and 18.*** *Programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

September 5 10:45 a.m. "Neighborhood Characters" Short Nature Walk

A 30-minute, easy morning walk in the cactus garden will bring you face to thorns with plants that may remind you of people you know, friendly and otherwise. ***This program will also be offered September 6, 12, 19 and 26.*** *Programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

September 7 2:15 p.m. "Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert" Illustrated Talk

Learn about the natural history, behaviors and fascinating facts about this colorful creature: the Roadrunner. ***This program will also be offered September 14 and 28.*** *Programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

September 12 2:15 p.m. "Don't Forget to Turn Off the Lights" Illustrated Talk

Birds crash into buildings; some animals stop mating. Stars disappear from view. Learn what the National Park Service is doing about light pollution – and how YOU can help flip the switch to save the night skies. ***This program will also be offered September 19 and 26.*** *Programs are wheelchair accessible.* ♿

September 25 2:00 p.m. "Insects Among Us; Bugs in the House, Backyard, and Beyond"

Are you scared of scorpions? Do black widow spiders make you queasy? Learn more about insects commonly found in your home or backyard in a presentation by Dr. Carl Olson, University of Arizona entomologist. Dr Olson will provide interesting facts about bugs of the Sonoran Desert, reasons why they are in your house, and what to do if you encounter them. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:

September 4 11:00 a.m. “Saguaro National Park: A Common Heritage”

This 20-minute presentation shown in the visitor center auditorium explores the peoples who settled this area, from prehistoric Hohokam to homesteaders and Hispanic ranchers. ***This program is offered Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. These programs are wheelchair accessible.*** ♿

September 4 3:00 p.m. “75+ Years at Saguaro National Park: An Illustrated History”

Come along with a park ranger in the visitor center auditorium for a trip down memory lane through 75+ years of Saguaro National Park. This presentation, which includes many historic photos, takes a look at the events that helped shape Saguaro National Park. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

September 5 11:00 a.m. “People and Places of Saguaro’s Past”

Join Park Ranger Arlo Ogden in the Visitor Center auditorium for this photo tour of the park’s historic past, focusing on the stories told by its historic structures. ***This program will also be offered September 12, 19 and 26 . Programs are wheelchair accessible.*** ♿

September 9 7:00 p.m. “Living with Urban Wildlife”

Join Sandy Reith, a naturalist with the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, in the visitor center auditorium to learn about our resident wildlife, their habitat needs and why they may be attracted to our yards. Sandy will also discuss ways to design and manage personal property to benefit both the owner and wildlife. *Program is wheelchair accessible.* ♿

September 10 & 24 7:00 p.m. “Night Walk” 1 mile, 2 hours

Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, *Reservations are required*, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

September 11 3:00 p.m. ‘Yesterday, Today ...and Saguaro?’

What will the world’s changing climate mean for the National Parks? Will our children find glaciers in Glacier, coral reefs in Hawaii, Joshua trees in Joshua Tree? And what does a warmer, drier Arizona future hold for our signature Giant Saguaro? Ranger Jeff Wallner will pose these questions that only your future decisions can answer. Meet at the visitor center for this 45-minute auditorium presentation. ***This program will also be offered September 25. Programs are wheelchair accessible.*** ♿

Daily Programs

The park’s two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu
www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpsa.org
www.rinconinstitute.org